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Draft Amendments to CU TR on Food Labeling on required information on GMOs

Report Categories:

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Trade Policy Monitoring

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Right Protection and Well-Being of Population drafted amendments to the Customs Union Technical Regulation (TR) on Food Products Labeling. The draft amendments concern labeling of products containing GMO ingredients. The draft strengthens requirements to include information on GMOs on labels of food products of plant and animal origin, and proposes to require that information on GMOs cover not less than 20 percent of the food composition and ingredients label area. It also proposed to make it mandatory to state the percentage of each GMO ingredient in the product.

General Information:

The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Right Protection and Well-Being of Population drafted amendments to the Customs Union Technical Regulation (TR) on Food Products Labeling. The draft amendments concern labeling of products containing GMO ingredients, and propose to require that information on GMOs cover not less than 20 percent of the food composition and ingredients label area. It also proposed to make it mandatory to state the percentage of each GMO ingredient in the product. The draft “On amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (TR CU 022/2011) was posted for public discussion on the government site on March 13, 2014: <http://regulation.gov.ru/project/13155.html>. The time for public comments is from March 13, 2014 through April 12, 2014. The unofficial translation of the draft is given below.

FAS/Moscow reported on the Customs Union TR “On Food Products Labeling” in the GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#).

Begin unofficial translation

Draft
Council of Eurasian Economic Commission
Decision
No. ____ dated _____

On Amendments To the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (TR CU 022/2011)

In accordance with Article 3 of Agreement on the Eurasian Economic Commission of November 18, 2011, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission decided:

1. To amend the Customs Union technical regulation “Food Products Labeling” (TR CU 022/2011) adopted by the Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union No. 881 of December 9, 2011, in accordance with the attachment.
2. To determine:
 - 2.1. Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (hereinafter – Technical Regulation) will take effect within 180 days from the date of their official publication;
 - 2.2. Within 180 days after the amendments to the technical regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” take effect, production of food products and their release into circulation are allowed under the requirements to food products labeling established before the entry into force of these changes.
 - 2.3. The circulation of products released into circulation in accordance with item 2.2 of the current Decision is allowed within the shelf life of products as determined in the legislation of the states – members of the Customs Union.

Members of the Council of Eurasian Economic Commission

For Republic of Belarus For Republic of Kazakhstan For Russian Federation

**Amendments
to Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (TR CU 022/2011)**

1. Item 4.11 of Article 4 to read as following:

“4.11. Requirements for Specification of Information on Presence of Ingredients Obtained with the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Food Products Labeling

1. For food products of plant and animal origin the indication of the following information is required:

- for products obtained with the help of GMO - "Genetically modified products" or "The product contains components of genetically modified organisms";
- for products that are obtained with the help of GMO but do not contain deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and proteins - "Products obtained from genetically modified organisms".

If the manufacturer did not use genetically modified organisms in the process of manufacturing food products of plant and animal origin, the content of GMO of 0.9 percent or less is an accidental or technically irremovable impurity, and such food products shall not be referred to as food products containing GMO. When labeling such food products, the fact of the GMO presence shall not be stated.

2. For food products obtained from genetically modified microorganisms or with the use thereof (bacteria, yeast and filamentous fungi, the genetic material of which was modified with the help of genetic engineering methods) (hereinafter referred to as the GMM) the indication of the following information is required:

- For products containing living GMM - "The product contains living genetically modified microorganisms";
- For products containing nonviable GMM - "The product was obtained with the help of genetically modified microorganisms";
- For products freed from engineered GMM or for products produced with the help of components freed from engineered GMM - "The product contains components obtained with the help of genetically modified microorganisms”.

3. The inscription on the presence in food products of components produced with use of GMO, including those not containing deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and proteins, shall occupy at least 20 percent of the label area and (or) of the leaflet. This information is put in capital letters in black on white background, in bold, clear, easily readable font of the maximum large size; line spacing should not exceed the height of the font. The inscription must be evenly distributed over the entire area.

The inscription on the presence in food products of components produced with the use of GMO shall also include a proportion of content of specific type of GMO (in percent) in the food product.”

End unofficial translation